

Message Text

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21

ACTION SS-25

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R 261517Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2889
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0480

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH ZA US

SUBJECT: ANGOLA EXECUTIVE MEETS WITH KAUNDA ON RHODESIA

REF: LUSAKA 0459

1. GORDON RELLY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANGLO-AMERICAN AND RIGHT HAND OF HARRY OPPENHEIMER, CALLED FEB 26 FOLLOWING MEETING EARLIER IN DAY WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA IN WHICH RHODESIAN SITUATION DESCRIBED BY ZAMBIANS AS 11:59 ON THE CLOCK IF NOT PAST MIDNIGHT. BOTH KAUNDA AND HIS POLITICAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA BOTH SAID ONLY A MIRACLE COULD NOW BRING ABOUT SOME UNDERSTANDING AND INSTALL NKOMO AT THE HEAD OF AN INTERIM GOVT WITH SOME SEMBLANCE OF MAJORITY RULE. MEANWHILE THE "DOGS OF WAR" ARE BEING UNLEASHED AND KAUNDA FEELS INCREASINGLY SQUEEZED IN THE MIDDLE.

2. RELLY FOUND KAUNDA DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET AND CUBAN PENETRATION IN AFRICA FOLLOWING THEIR RECENT
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SUCSESSES IN ANGOLA AND THEIR APPARENT PLANS FOR NEW

PENETRATIONS INTO RHODESIA. RELLY ALSO FOUND KAUNDA RESENTFUL AND VINDICTIVE OVER BOLD SOVIET INTERFERENCE IN ZAMBIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS (UNIVERSITY AND MEDIA).

3. RELLY ASKED WHAT US PREPARED TO DO INASMUCH AS BRITISH ARE OBVIOUSLY BEING ASKED TO HOLD A BABY THEY CANNOT CARRY (REFERENCE TO LORD GREENHILL'S MISSION). I GAVE RELLY AN UPDATE ON US POLICY AFTER WHICH HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE LEAST THE WEST COULD DO WAS SOMETHING SUPPORTIVE OF BRITISH. HE VAGUELY SUGGESTED SOME FORM OF JOINT AGREEMENT AMONG US AND ITS ALLIES TO GUARANTEE PEACE AND SECURITY IN RHODESIA FOR, SAY, THE NEXT FIVE YEARS OR SO. RELLY THOUGHT THE UNITED NATIONS COULD DO NOTHING IN THIS INSTANCE.

4. AS FOR SOUTH AFRICA STANDING BY "KITH AND KIN" IN RHODESIA, RELLY SAID SAG POLICY WAS TO LEAVE SMITH PRETTY MUCH TO HIS OWN DEVICES, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC OPINION COULD BE DECISIVE IF WHITE WOMEN AND CHILDREN STARTED TO BE SLAUGHTERED BY GUERRILLA FIGHTERS AND FOREIGN INTERVENTIONISTS.

5. COMMENT: RELLY SEEMED NOT TO HAVE THOUGHT BEYOND A FEELING OF GENERAL NEED FOR US "TO DO SOMETHING" IN RHODESIA, THE OPTIONS BEING LEFT TO US, WITH ALL EYES, AS HE SAID, NOW ON THE MOST POWERFUL AND RESPONSIBLE NATION THAT CAN ACT, IF IT HAS THE WILL. HE LEFT IMPRESSION ZAMBIANS ALSO FELT THIS WAY.
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